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LEHRER: We have two members of Congress with us now to react to what the, what, to what Mr. Reagan said tonight. They're both from California, but that's where the similarity ends. Senator\Pete\Wilson is a Republican, and Congressman\Don\Edwards is a Democrat. Congressman, what do you make of the president's explanation of why the United States went, went into Grenada? EDWARDS: Well, it was entirely new explanation. I have heard our briefings over the last two days that we were going in there to rescue the students and also because we had been requested to go in there by some other countries in that area. But now tonight, I understand, to my amazement and shock, that it's because the Russians were about to start a huge base there and threaten security of the United States, which is really something very hard to believe, that tiny little country with 110,000 people, that it is any threat to the United States.

LEHRER: Senator, what's your view of that? Do you buy the president's explanation, ah, the Cuban-Soviet explanation that we just heard? WILSON: Well, I think the first analysis was true, that he, that we went in there both because of the threat to American lives, which I think the students have fully vindicated. They clearly felt that way. Both the footage tonight and the footage on your show last night showed that. Secondly, we went on and at the express plea of the member states of the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States. I don't think there's any dispute about that. What the president said tonight is that when we arrived there we have found that there are vast stores of military equipment that make it quite clear that a store so far in excess of the legitimate needs, the defense needs of the island of Grenada can have only one purpose. It was clearly a Cuban staging area of the kind that we have seen elsewhere in the Caribbean.

LEHRER: Congressman Edwards, why do you doubt that? EDWARDS: Well, we don't know what was going on on the island, because for the first time since the revolutionary war, ah, the press has not been allowed to go in there. The phones have been cut off. The three or four reporters who flew in were escorted out. So, the, the censorship is almost totally complete, and, ah, the students changed their stories. The chancellor of the university, after talking to the CIA and to the State Department changed his story. So, we really don't know what was going on.

*EXCERPTED*